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The Observer

By the students For the students

Vol. 113 NO. 5 | May 2 - May 8, 2019



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Shooter investigation closed

CWU Police completed a two-month long investigation after the active shooter false alarm on Feb. 6. Students can expect an after action report in the coming weeks and an active shooter training video early next school year



Georgia Mallett/The Observer

CWU Police Chief Jason Berthon-Koch spoke to students on Feb. 14 regarding the active shooter false alarm on Feb. 6. This forum was put on by ASCWU and the president's office to debrief the event.

Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief

The active shooter false alarm that occurred on Feb. 6 caused a two-month long investigation by CWU Police. The investigation is complete as of last week.

On Feb. 12 CWU Chief of Staff Linda Schactler said CWU Police predicted it was likely for the investigation to be concluded early the following week. Because the CWU Police department is small, more time was needed to complete the investigation than the university initially estimated, CWU Police Chief Jason Berthon-Koch told The Observer, which obtained a copy of the investigation report through a public records request on April 26.

"You have people investigating this who are also answering calls for service for other things at the university," Berthon-Koch said. "We don't have the ability to have a detective on staff to go and just take care of this."

Berthon-Koch said that the investigation was read numerous times to make sure nothing was missing.

"It just takes time," Berthon-Koch said. "I know nowadays that people just want instant information and they want finality in 30 minutes plus commercials and it's difficult at times."

Better alert, more training

An after action report can be expected to come in the next few weeks, according to Berthon-Koch. This report will include

what went well during the incident and what can be improved for future incidents.

"We took information from students and faculty and staff and that is really formulating the after action report," Berthon-Koch said.

He said the CWU Rave Alerts will be more detailed and there will be more frequent communication during incidents. Berthon-Koch said this is to ensure hours don't pass by without information being updated.

Berthon-Koch said an expansion to the Rave Alert system is being considered. The "Guardian app" would allow people to get alerts over Wi-Fi. Berthon-Koch recognized some buildings have issues with cellular connection. With the Guardian app, anybody connected to Wi-Fi could receive the alerts.

As part of the after action review and in response to feedback from the CWU community, there has been a supplemental funding request for security measures on campus made to the state. Funding would contribute to outdoor speakers and installing card-swipe access to all external building entrances.

CWU Police in conjunction with Public Affairs are working on creating an active shooter training video. The video's script is in the process of being written. Some students, faculty and staff will assist with the video.

Berthon-Koch said "run, hide, fight" will still be taught but that there will be a focus on the "hide portion."

Continued on Page 8

Wildcat Farm prepares for first season

Mary Park
Staff Reporter

What used to be an empty plot of land located at the corner of North Alder Street and East 14th Ave. is now a farm ready to yield its first produce this spring and summer.

Carrots, radishes, beets and spinach are some of the vegetable seeds that have been sown so far at Wildcat Neighborhood Farm.

Farm and Sustainability Manager Kate Doughty said she is excited to see the farm start from scratch and grow into its "pilot season."

"It's here, it's happening," Doughty said. "This is our first year, it's the first time this has been done on our campus."

Doughty said it was a challenge to start a project from scratch and to adapt it to the Ellensburg weather, including the

city's 20 to 30 mph winds.

The high tunnel structures, which will be completed by this summer, will help protect crops against the weather and pests.

"Those are season-extending, possibly solar-heating greenhouses," Doughty said, looking at the construction behind the rows. "So that we're not emitting excess carbon and can extend the [growing] season into colder months."

Although the tunnels won't be ready to have crops grown in them until next year, cover crops will be planted inside.

Cover crops are crops like field peas, ryegrass and clovers that are planted for specific functions such as erosion control, weed reduction and for improving nutrient content in the soil.

Once the soil is prepared, crops like tomatoes, okra and sweet potatoes will be planted.

Doughty said that the farm is currently discussing in-vessel composting to di-

rect as much food waste as possible away from landfills and use them for farming and landscaping around campus.

In upcoming years, CWU's Dining and Catering Services will use the locally-grown foods produced at the farm.

According to Auxiliary Enterprises 2018 Annual Report, Dining Services currently buys from local companies such as Food Services of America from Spokane and Seattle, Sysco Foods and Core-Mark.

Auxiliary Enterprises is a company responsible for business operations on campus, such as Dining and Catering and the Wildcat Shop.

Produce will also be sold at a farm stand and any leftover produce will be donated to the Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH) pantries.

The farm went through a proposal process in 2017, after the idea for the project first began.

Doughty, who was involved in the research stages, said she and various partners including Dining and Catering Services, Health Sciences and Facilities Management first examined what would be suitable for CWU.

"[A] practical outdoor classroom that was sustainability-focused is what we wanted to do," Doughty said.

After the research component was completed, a proposal was submitted to the Auxiliary Enterprises Proposal Committee. Once the committee approved the project, facilities and grounds department made sure irrigation water and other infrastructure components were available.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Possible cuts to work study program

Nick Tucker
Senior News Reporter

Next year, work study funding may be cut by over half due to the White House’s proposed 2020 budget. Every year, the White House sends a proposed budget to Congress which may or may not be approved. In the 2019 and 2018 work-study funding remained at just over \$1.1 billion, but if this budget is approved, that number may drop to \$500 million.

The Federal Work-Study Program was established in 1964 to assist students in earning money while also providing them with work experience. The government helps pay students to work, in turn the institutions and surrounding areas get workers. The government provides funding to subsidize at least 50 percent of students’ salaries, allowing for jobs to be created where there would otherwise be none.

Students qualify based on their need just like any other federal aid award, but it is not a grant because students must work to earn it, and it is not a loan because students don’t have to repay it. The amount of funds provided by the government dictates how many jobs or hours institutions can offer.

CWU music professor Dr. Bret Smith has served for many years as a faculty legislative liaison with the Washington state government. He was able to pay for college in part through work-study and said that all three jobs he worked changed his life and sent him down the path towards his current career. According to Dr. Smith, cutting the budget would mean that the university can’t offer work-study jobs to as many students. This means both less work opportunities for students and therefore less opportunities to make money to pay for tuition, but

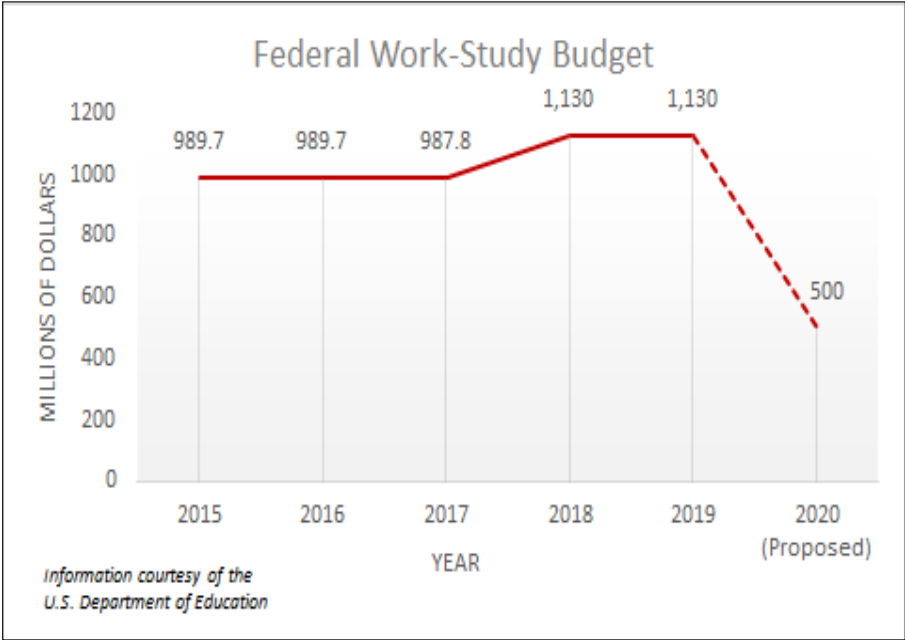
CWU and Ellensburg also lose a lot of valuable workers.

“The worst thing probably, from a student’s perspective, would be that if those dollars are not available, that’s more unmet need that needs to be covered by student loans, and I don’t think anyone wants to start talking about making students borrow more money,” Dr. Smith said.

Supporters of the work-study program claim it provides a mutual benefit to both institutions and students, with students gaining time management and work experience, as well as having greater degrees of financial and schedule flexibility. Audrey Vulcano, a senior majoring in biology, works in the art department as an office assistant. She said that her work-study job covers about a fourth of her tuition expenses and gives her the flexibility she needs as a student.

“I set my own hours. If I tell [my boss] that I can only work from this time to this time, I only work in that time. If I say: ‘I have a bunch of homework, I have a test, etc.’ [my boss] says that my degree matters most,” Vulcano said. “That’s not the case for every work-study job, but for the most part they have to work around your school schedule.”

In Dr. Smith’s legislative liaison position he met Dr. Roger Anderson of Western Washington University’s Biology Department who is also a fellow legislative liaison. He has been working with Dr. Smith on gathering information about the work-study program and fighting the cuts in budget. Dr. Anderson believes that the cuts to work-study seem to be part of a push by legislators and the Department of Education away from the kinds of financial flexibility that work-study provides, and towards career-focused programs like intern-



ships and apprenticeships.

“The original intent was to put some money in students’ pockets for food, to pay some bills, but for some reason that’s not good enough anymore,” Dr. Anderson said. “What they want is a change to have work-study be career-focused. Well, plenty of students don’t know what their careers are going to be. Potential careers, yes, but it disturbs me that they miss the interstructural benefits of having students work for students.”

According to a 2017 report by Dr. Judith Scott-Clayton from Columbia University, work-study has always been favored by Republicans in Congress, with the program fitting into ideas of personal responsibility and work-based learning. This puts a pressure on the Republican-held Senate to either support work-study or support the budget submitted by a Republican president.

The current administration has made

efforts to cut work-study funding before, and those budgets have so far been rejected. However, Dr. Anderson said that if the budget is passed, Washington state won’t be willing or able to cover the shortfall in funding, even though according to him, Washington has generally done a good job supporting work-study in the past. Many other states rely completely on federal funding for the program.

For those hoping to save the work-study program, there is still time. As a line item in the budget, work-study funding can be changed until almost the last minute. According to Dr. Anderson, a lot of our current legislators were a part of work-studies as students and have a lot of appreciation for the program. However, as it is often a part of larger bills, work-study has so far been convenient to ignore. If the problem is unawareness, this provides an opportunity for students and faculty to make their voices heard both at the state and national levels.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

ASCWU election results are in



Photo Courtesy of Jasmin Washington
Jasmin Washington is the ASCWU President-elect.
She won the election by 63 votes.

Nick Tucker

Senior News Reporter

The preliminary results are in for the 2019-20 ASCWU elections. Jasmin Washington has won the seat of president after making it past the primaries and beating the runner-up Brendan Dolleman. Alejandro Alcantar won as a write-in candidate for executive VP. Ashley Klippert will be VP for clubs and organizations. Nicholas Mejia will be the VP for academic affairs. Jessica Hernandez will be VP for equity and community affairs. Mickael Candelaria will be VP

for student life and facilities and Zackary Turner won as VP for legislative affairs.

The position of ASCWU President was won by 63 votes, a four percent margin, with Washington winning 811 votes and Dolleman winning 748. Upon learning of her victory, Washington called Dolleman and offered him a position on her team, an offer which he accepted.

"She hasn't specified [my role] yet, but we'll be talking over the next weeks," Dolleman said. "What's important is that I am willing to help and that she was willing to reach out, I really respect that."

Washington said the first task she will be undertaking is to fulfill one of her campaign promises by getting menstrual products distributed for free to students on campus. According to Washington, she is also looking at all buildings on campus to find which buildings have gender-neutral bathrooms and which don't.

"I'm super excited to get the ball rolling, we have the most diverse board we've had ever," Washington said. "Hopefully everyone thinks about hiring their opponents because I think they all have that drive that we need. It would be good to get everyone at the table because you rarely get students like that, so why not use them?"

This election saw a large amount of write-in candidates running for office with various degrees of success, at least seven were shown in the voting results. Alejandro Alcantar originally ran for the presidential seat until los-

ing to Washington and Dolleman in the primary elections earlier in April. Alcantar said that he had friends and supporters recommend he run for the role of executive VP as a write-in candidate, which he won uncontested.

However, some write-in candidates didn't see as much success. Political science major and ROTC cadet Will Stryker ran for VP of academic affairs against Nicholas Mejia. According to Stryker, he had been trying to decide if he would have enough time next year to give his potential position its necessary attention. A friend encouraged him to do so but by the time his deci-

sion was made, it was too late for him to gather the required 100 signatures to become an official candidate.

"I said 'oh, it's Friday of finals week, good luck finding 100 people to harass into signing this piece of paper,'" Stryker said. "As a write-in candidate you have to actually know people, they won't just tick the box, it's more of a grassroots campaign."

In getting to know student voters, Stryker filled a notebook full of things that students brought up as important issues when talking to him. He said he intends on giving the notebook to Mejia to make use of in his new position.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ijeoma OLUO

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MAY 8, 2019
Public meet/greet and book signing with Ijeoma Oluo immediately following event, 8 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.
Books available for purchase courtesy of the Wildcat Shop.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Campus offers free STI tests



The risk of contracting an STI increases in those who do not practice safe sex. Condoms like those pictured above can lower the chances of an STI, although it is still important to get tested.

Dez Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

The Get Yourself Tested event offers free STI testing services to students in an attempt to increase awareness about sexually transmitted infections. The event is coming to campus May 8-9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Student Medical and Counseling Clinic (SMaCC), and is co-hosted by the Wellness Center and SMaCC. According to Marissa Howat,

director of wellness and health promotion at the Wellness Center, students can make an appointment for free testing at the Wellness Center before May 7. Walk-ins are also welcomed, but there may be a wait time. “For individuals who are sexually active, testing is imperative,” Howat said. Many people will not know they are infected because STIs often have no symptoms. Howat said in the United States, young people aged 15 to 24

years old acquire half of all new STIs. The event includes screenings for the most common infections diagnosed in CWU students, which include chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV, according to Howat. Students can also request a test for other infections if they are experiencing different STI symptoms. According to CWU’s website, STI test costs can range from \$30 to \$100 if not done during the free two-day event. The event also offers the chance

to get tests done without it showing on insurance coverages, something a CWU student who requested to remain anonymous preferred. “I was really scared of seeing what the results might be but it had to get done sooner or later,” said the student. “I was also worried about it showing on my parents’ insurance but it’s free for this event so that was really cool.” The student said the test included a urine sample and only took 10 minutes. The results are usually available the next day. The student recommended the free testing to all students who are sexually active, especially those who have unprotected sex. According to the American College Health Association (ACHA), using barrier methods, such as condoms, reduce the risk of STIs spreading by bodily fluids. ACHA recommends using only latex or polyurethane condoms labeled for HIV protection. The chance of acquiring an STI increases with unprotected sex, so students are advised to take precautions. CWU’s website said some of the best practices to prevent STIs include having fewer “hookup” partners, using condoms correctly every time and getting a follow-up test after three months to test for HIV and herpes. “The only way to know for sure if you have an STI is to get yourself tested,” Howat said. “We want to reduce the stigma around talking about testing with partners and friends, and remove barriers to sexually active students being tested regularly.”

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Editor: Cassandra Hays

Wildcat Neighborhood Farm will benefit campus

Continued from Page 1

On April 20 volunteers from Yakima River Cleanup came to dig the soil and make the beds so that the farm was prepared to have seeds sown.

According to Doughty, the farm will provide CWU students the opportunity to do research on horticultural topics such as soil research, composting, sustainable landscaping and irrigation design. Faculty members interested in incorporating farm activities into their coursework can contact the farm directly.

“Students are the core to our entire mission,” Doughty said. “It’s been fun to connect with students and see where their interests are and try to make something that’s going to give the most benefit to them.”

Doughty said the farm is open to not only to students in the sciences, but to all majors including visual art and creative writing students, who can use the space for creative expression.

“Anyone who enjoys being in outdoor space can be part of this community,” Doughty said. “This space is centered on food, and food, to me, is the universal need and it’s a way that we connect with each other on so many levels.”

Gia Landis is a junior in environmental science specializing in geography and a volunteer at the farm. Landis said she met Doughty at the Sustainability Café last fall, and has started working with her at the farm since.

“I wanted to be part of something that would improve sustainability on campus and be outdoors, to hang out with people and garden,” Landis said. “And it’s cool to be part of an experience that’s just starting.”

Landis said among other things, she has helped plant shrubs like mock berry, mock orange and golden currant at the farm.

“I would definitely say that you don’t have to know what you’re doing to volunteer there, they’ll teach you,” Landis said.

“I didn’t know how to use a [broad fork], but Kate taught me how to use it.”

Wildcat Neighborhood Farm sits right next to the CWU Campus Community Garden. Since 2013, the garden has allowed people in the community to plant in their own plot of garden beds.

The main difference is that Wildcat Neighborhood Farm will focus more on producing crops that will go toward Dining Services.

“We have a great relationship in working together and figuring out what will make this space function and how we can collaborate,” Doughty said.

“

Working with your hands in the soil has real benefits to mental health.

Kate Doughty, Farm and Sustainability Manager

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Bram Wiggins/The Observer

Kate Doughty, farm and sustainability manager at the Wildcat Neighborhood Farm, said she wanted the farm to be sustainability-focused. The farm will produce food for CWU Dining and Catering Services in the future.

Brad Esparza, a senior in anthropology, has a plot in the community garden, which he plans to sow seeds that range from brussel sprouts to bok choy. Esparza said there are many benefits to gardening.

“It’s actually pretty meditative once you get going,” Esparza said. “It’s a great way to grow your own fresh food, it’s a great way to gain knowledge [and] a way to grow community.”

Doughty also said that while gardening may not work for everyone, she

believes it has a link to good well-being.

“Working with your hands in the soil has real benefits to mental health,” Doughty said.

On the Wildcat Neighborhood Farm website, students, faculty and community members can fill out a short survey to get involved at the farm by volunteering or suggesting research ideas.

“If someone has an idea that they think they can use this space for and it works with what we’re doing, I’d say please come and [share],” Doughty said.

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ORKNEER

Editor: Cassandra Hays



Bram Wiggins/The Observer

American Sign Language (ASL) is one of seven world language programs offered at CWU. Lecturer Jer Loudenback (lower right) is Deaf, so students may only communicate with him using their knowledge of ASL.

A class that speaks volumes without voices

Sean Quinn

Staff Reporter

On the third floor of the Language and Literature Building at CWU, you walk into a classroom where students are communicating with a professor. Yet, you can hear a pin drop. But in the American Sign Language (ASL) program at CWU, this is the norm. In these classes, instructors maintain an ASL-only, no voices policy. Despite the lack of voices, students in this program are fully able to participate in classes with nothing but silent sounds, quick moving fingers and expressive facial gestures. It's also a necessity, as the instructors in this particular program are Deaf.

Yes, that's Deaf with a capital D. The two faculty in the ASL program, lecturer Jer Loudenback and professor Dr. Taralynn Petrites, refer to themselves as Deaf. This illustrates their strong attachment to Deaf culture and the Deaf community. Those who identify as "deaf" acknowledge their medical condition but do not associate with those two aspects. Petrites noted it's important to know the proper way to address someone who is deaf or hard-of-hearing.

"Regardless of the degree of hearing loss... 'hearing impaired' is a very negative term. It really causes a deaf person to feel like it will cause people to have a very negative reaction," Petrites said.

Because the two faculty members cannot hear their surroundings, the minute students walk into their classrooms they remain silent. With the exception of occasional laughter, language is expressed through the movement of fingers or signs rather than with sound. There is no exception to this rule no matter which level of ASL class you take. If students encounter a miscommunication or lack of knowledge of vocabulary, they are en-

couraged to sign out words alphabetically or write questions down.

Yet students in Loudenback's ASL literature class say they have no issues communicating with him despite the knowledge barrier. His students are in their third year of studying ASL at CWU, so they have grasped a deeper knowledge of signs.

When faced with a misunderstanding due to lack of oral communication, the students are encouraged to overcome it.

"[Loudenback] always asks us to be like Hermione from 'Harry Potter,'" student Makayla Powell said. "The more you put into it as a student, the more you're going to get out of it. He's like 'raise your hand, raise your hand if you don't understand. If I'm going too fast, tell me to slow down.'"

“

It's very expressive. You have no idea what the context is until you look at their eyebrows and their smile and their facial expression.

Lauren Serl, ASL student

”

Even though the signs are the same for everyone, students from Loudenback's class said that everyone who communicates through ASL does so in a different way. It could be the speed of the signer that varies person-to-person, as well as their individual facial expressions. One man's smile may not be the same as another woman's.

"It's very expressive. You have no idea what the context is until you look at their eyebrows and their smile and their facial expression. And their tongue," classmate Lauren Serl said.

In his class, Loudenback stands at the front of the room and communicates using ASL and expressive body language such as wide-arm movements with emotions on his face. He has taught ASL formally for over 30 years. Although the environment could potentially welcome disruptions not audible to him, Loudenback is not pressured.

"I feel like students have taken this class very seriously. Same as in any hearing classroom," Loudenback said.

During class, Loudenback uses nu-



Sean Quinn/The Observer

Three students in the ASL program hold up signs for the letters A, S and L. During class, students are not allowed to speak and must use their knowledge of sign language to communicate.

merous platforms besides ASL to teach, such as PowerPoint slides written in English and YouTube videos with other ASL signers. The class sits in one row, eyes focused on Loudenback's hand movements and facial expressions. They must pay close attention, otherwise they miss critical information.

Another student in Loudenback's class, Rae West, said that constant focus is crucial.

"Sometimes if you look away, or if you zone out...you'll miss stuff. That's the hard thing because you can't listen," West said.

Dr. Petrites is the only other ASL instructor within the program. Students in her lower level ASL classes are not expected to know as much vocabulary, so she signs at a slower, more visible expression.

When not teaching, she serves as the ASL program coordinator and advisor. She believes there are many reasons why students get a minor in ASL at CWU. She said at the present moment there is a high demand for ASL signers in the field. According to the CWU ASL program website, there are "over 20 million Americans [who]

are deaf or hard of hearing, yet few people in our communities know enough ASL to be able to communicate with them."

"Maybe they want [to] learn about [ASL] as a whole. Some want to become interpreters; some want to work in the field of special education. Other people want to feel it brings them out into the community possibly [in] social services or emergency services," Petrites said.

Currently the ASL program is offered as a minor. There are six required courses in the minor, which is a total of 30 credits. Students can find out more information about this program by emailing Dr. Petrites (Taralynn.Petrites@cwu.edu).

Petrites also encourages both hearing and Deaf individuals to attend a "Deaf Coffee Chat." These are held at the Starbucks on campus every second Friday of every month. It is an opportunity welcoming people from all backgrounds to come and socialize using sign language. There will also be presentations and demonstrations given by ASL students at SOURCE presentations on May 15 and 16 all day in the SURC and on World Languages Day on May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the SURC.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Nutrition Science Club advocates for healthy eating



Photo courtesy of the CWU Nutrition Science Club
Members of the CWU Nutrition Science Club plant seedlings for the club's upcoming plant sale on May 11 and 12. The Nutrition Science Club participates in educational and outreach events pertaining to nutrition on campus and in the community.

Emma Johnson
Staff Reporter

The CWU Nutrition Science Club is advocating and educating for on-campus nutrition. In addition to putting on events to educate students about basic nutrition, the club has recently attended a conference in Seattle put on by the Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WSAND) from April 7-9. Club members were able to bring back what they learned at the conference to further educate CWU students and the community of Ellensburg.

According to Anna Winnett, a CWU student who is also a WSAND board member, during the conference the club had the opportunity to attend lectures about different topics relating to nutrition.

"The conference is basically just a big update on all the new things in the field," Winnett said.

There were licensed dietitians and

doctors that specialize in nutrition at the conference.

Winnett attended a lecture about "food cults," which discussed how consumers control the distribution and amount of certain food products based on popularity and demand. The club members were also able to learn about the new code of ethics for licensed dietitians.

Taylor Roice, treasurer of the Nutrition Science Club, said the conference focused on contemporary concepts.

Students who attended the conference could choose what lectures they attended, so the information the club brought back to CWU had variation. Roice learned about nutrigenomics, which is the study of nutrition and genes and how they work together regarding the treatment of diseases such as cancer, according to Roice. Roice also learned about the nutrition of cannabis and cannabis products, specifically cannabis edibles.

"People typically think of edibles as

being healthier, but they're actually not," Roice said. "It's called first pass metabolism, so the liver gets first access to items that are consumed through the body. The liver then converts [the] cannabinoids."

According to Winnett, Nutrition Science Club meetings consist of club officers presenting a PowerPoint slideshow discussing what they will be talking about that week. Then, they go into the agenda and on occasion there are guest speakers.

Every month, the club chooses a vegetable of the month. April's vegetable is the chayote squash. They try to focus on vegetables that are in season at the current meeting so they can talk about how the students could utilize that vegetable within their own dishes. The club also provides healthy snacks at every meeting. Volunteer opportunities are talked about at meetings and members are able to sign up at them.

The next event the Nutrition Science Club is putting on is their annual plant sale, which is one of their fundraisers. The

plant sale will be during Family Weekend which takes place May 11-12. According to Winnett, they will sell mostly assorted herbs, which take less time to grow than veggies do.

"A lot of our community outreach is mostly through events and fundraisers we do," Roice said. The community outreach that the club is most involved in is their partnership with Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH), which works with the FISH food bank to stock more nutritious foods for the public to access.

During Earth Week, which took place April 15-19, the Nutrition Science Club teamed up with the Environmental Club to talk to students about food waste, reducing waste at the grocery store and how to shop sustainably while grocery shopping. They also demonstrated how to make produce bags out of t-shirts.

When it comes to college students who have a tight budget but want to eat healthy, according to Roice, students should be looking for certain foods.

"Cheap, high fiber foods have been good for me, so bulk fruits, bulk vegetables, bulk nuts and seeds," Roice said.

Roice also recommended the FISH Community Food Bank, which is the food bank in Ellensburg. Students can go when needed to pick out fresh, healthy produce. He said the food bank provides produce that unfortunately does not stay fresh for long, so it's important for people to claim them before they expire.

"A lot of their fruits and veggies go to waste," Roice said.

Roice also recommended PUSH, who help with food insecurity on campus.

Anna Winnett discussed how it can be difficult to find nutritious food on campus. She said there are five salad bars on campus, and vegetable options are more attainable than some may think.

"If you're eating all your fruits and vegetables, and trying to get all of your vitamins and minerals a day, your brain will be at top function, you will be able to study longer, study harder, get better grades, have better energy, because your diet really reflects on your energy," Winnett said.

The Nutrition Science Club meets every other Wednesday in Michaelson Hall room 127 at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be May 1. They share a meeting space with PUSH, who meet the other two weeks of the month.



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Kremiere Jackson

2019 Supervisor of the Year Winner

Award recipients are pictured with Provost Katherine Frank.



Lind Hall and the SURC are two of the buildings where shots were reportedly fired on Feb. 6. An alert was sent out at 5:35 p.m. to inform students of a possible active shooter.

Active shooter update

Photos by: Shawna Hettick & Georgia Mallett

Story By: Mariah Valles

Design By: Will Yi & Mariah Valles

Continued from Page 1

“If people choose to lock down, what do you do?” Berthon-Koch said. “It’s easy to say, ‘Just go hide,’ but I want to give you examples of what to do.”

Berthon-Koch said students can expect the video to be ready in September or October. His goal is for every student to watch the video at least once a year.

The CWU Police Department is open and willing to provide students with active shooter training classes.

“We can certainly set up classes if there’s a whole group of students who want to set up classes,” Berthon-Koch said. “I’m more than willing to come meet with students, I even do it in evenings, and go through active shooter training with them.”

If there are questions or concerns, Berthon-Koch or CWU Assistant Police Chief Eric Twaites can be contacted at the CWU Police Department office.

“We’re listening to [students’] voices regarding training,” Berthon-Koch said. “Our students want more training, so therefore we’re working towards that to create the video.”

A credible threat

On April 26, The Observer obtained a 50 page report detailing the active shooter events of Feb. 6. This report includes accounts by 11 CWU Police officers including CWU Police Chief Berthon-Koch and Assistant Police Chief Twaites.

On Feb. 6 at 4:32 p.m., Berthon-Koch received a phone call from CWU Police department Lt. Marc McPherson informing him about a threats call that the Ellensburg Police Department was working on. According to a March 15 supplemental report by

Berthon-Koch, “Lt. McPherson read the call to me that the student indicated that he made a shooting comment and that according to the call log CWU was concerned for the student,” Berthon-Koch stated.

The report says that an off-site counseling center had called 911 reporting the threatening comments.

At 4:35 p.m., Berthon-Koch called Joey Bryant in the Dean of Student Success office in Bouillon Hall to obtain local contact information for the student of concern as Lt. McPherson could not find it. Bryant is executive director of student rights and responsibilities.

Berthon-Koch informed Bryant CWU Police was responding to concerning comments made by a student and that they were assisting Ellensburg Police Department with locating the student. A short time after, Berthon-Koch called Bryant again to find out if the student had night classes.

When he arrived at the CWU Police office, Berthon-Koch was told that they had what they believed to be credible threatening comments directed at conduct or case management. Berthon-Koch called Bryant and asked him to take the precautionary step of locking their office. Berthon-Koch also told Bryant he would be sending officers to Bryant’s office to explain the situation as well as be there as a precaution.

Things escalated

Meanwhile, in Bouillon Hall, an ROTC student was having one of their regularly scheduled meetings with Joy Stochosky, assistant director of case management. Stochosky and the student told CWU Police that, on Feb. 6, around 4:50 p.m., their meeting was interrupted by Bryant, who, both said, informed them that the office was

going into a lock down due to an active shooter threat.

According to one of the reports, Stochosky privately went to Bryant’s office, also in Bouillon Hall, for clarification on the matter and went back to her office. Stochosky and the ROTC student then left her office and grouped together with others in the main office area.

Eventually, around 5 p.m., all remaining staff was escorted from Bouillon Hall by law enforcement. Shortly after, the ROTC student entered Lind Hall and Stochosky left campus.

According to a supplemental report by a CWU Police sergeant, on Feb. 7, Executive Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities Bryant was contacted via phone about the Feb. 6 incident. Bryant stated he was made aware of a potential threat regarding a student and made the decision to notify fellow staff members of the potential threat. According to the account of the phone call, however, Bryant said he did not say there was an active shooter threat on campus.

ROTC followed protocol

Stochosky said that, as she was driving away from campus, she saw the ROTC student walking to Lind Hall. She also noted CWU’s Army ROTC Major Bonnie Kovatch’s vehicle parked, which meant she was still at work. Stochosky pulled over and called Kovatch. She said the call gave no specific details regarding threats, but “the tone would lead someone to believe that things were not all right,” according to CWU Police reports.

According to a CWU Police officer who interviewed the ROTC student, the ROTC student said they overheard someone outside of Stochosky’s office say something to the effect that the office would be locked

down due to the threat of an active shooter. After being escorted out of Bouillon Hall, the ROTC student entered Lind Hall where he was supposed to be preparing for a lab the next day. In the hall, the ROTC student passed CWU’s Army ROTC Captain Jeremiah Wood and asked if he had heard anything about the threat of an active shooter. Captain Wood said he hadn’t heard about any threats, but turned and went to Kovatch’s office. The ROTC student went into a classroom “to observe junior cadets.”

According to CWU Police reports, the student said that at 5:15 p.m., Kovatch entered the classroom, said they would be enacting their ROTC protocol, and told the ROTC student to have the cadets leave. This meant the cadets in the classroom would evacuate the building and start a notification tree among all cadets to ensure they were accounted for. The ROTC student said they explained to the cadets that it was an “active shooter threat only.”

In a statement to CWU Police on Feb. 11, Major Kovatch said Stochosky told her the ROTC student was enroute to Lind Hall after learning of the unconfirmed reports of the active shooter threat at Bouillon Hall. Kovatch then looked out her office window and saw two CWU Police vehicles. Five minutes later, Wood notified her of what the ROTC student stated. The ROTC response plan was then put into action.

Times for the above events are not fully detailed in the investigation report.

The active shooter alert

According to a supplemental report by Assistant CWU Police Chief Twaites, at 5:26 p.m. on Feb. 6 he received a phone call from Chief Berthon-Koch that lasted 10 seconds.



Other buildings where shots were reportedly fired are the Language and Literature building (Left) and the Nicholson Pavilion (Right).



Bouillon Hall is where an ROTC student was in a meeting on Feb. 6 with a staff member of the Dean of Student Success office when another staff member informed them that the office would be entering lockdown as a precautionary measure.

According to Twaites, Berthon-Koch stated, “Send an alert there is an active shooter at Lind Hall.”

Twaites then logged into the CWU Rave Alert system. While logging into the alert system, he received a phone call from Andreas Bohman, CWU vice president of operations, at 5:29 p.m. asking if he was sending an alert. Twaites also received a phone call from KITTCOM lasting 42 seconds at 5:30 p.m. advising him of the active shooter at Lind Hall.

At 5:35 p.m. Twaites sent the alert. The message stated, “CWU Alert: There has been a report of an active shooter in the area of Lind Hall on CWU Ellensburg Campus. Stay out of the area.”

Between the time of the alert and all-clear, law enforcement responded to reports of shots being fired at Lind Hall, the SURC, Language and Literature Building and Nicholson Pavilion. The CWU Police report pieces together a series of testimonies detailing fragmentary and unconfirmed information was circulating

among students on campus and from students and their parents via text and social media about false rumors of shots fired.

During the process of clearing the SURC, no one indicated any knowledge of shooting, hearing shots fired or screaming and yelling due to an alleged active shooter, according to Twaites’ supplemental report.

Once incident command was certain there was no active shooter, Twaites sent out another CWU Rave Alert stating, “CWU Alert: Police have reported that all buildings have been secured and the campus all-clear. No confirmed shots, suspects, and no injuries reported.” This alert was sent at 7:27 p.m.

After the all-clear was given, secondary searches were completed for all academic buildings on the CWU Ellensburg campus, according to a supplemental report. According to the report, this was completed in order to make sure everybody knew about the all-clear, in case they hadn’t gotten the Rave Alert message.



Current ASCWU President Edith Rojas at the student forum on Feb. 14 when students had the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about the active shooter situation on Feb. 6. During this forum, CWU Police Chief Jason Berthon-Koch spoke about an after action report and new active shooter training video. On April 30, Berthon-Koch said the after action report should be available within the coming weeks. Berthon-Koch also said the training video should be ready at the beginning of next school year.

Editor: Hanson Lee

Josh Brolin is our new purple Darth Vader

Nick Tucker
Columnist

People have asked me how “Avengers: Endgame” was and my response so far has always been to say: “it was so much,” which you may notice is an indicator of quantity rather than quality. This is because after two viewings I still don’t think I can look past the sheer scale of this movie, both in its universe and in ours.

I don’t think it’s at all an exaggeration to say that this is the biggest movie in history. Of course, that title will be topped as it always has been, but the fact that this is the climax of a 22-movie saga spanning 11 years means it is almost incomparable to other movies with either no sequels or a number of sequels in the single-digits. Love the Marvel movies or hate them, nothing like this has ever been done before. It couldn’t be done before. There hasn’t been the technology, the infrastructure and critically, the audience size to support an endeavor like this.

We think of things in terms of the domestic box office, but that can be a very limiting perspective. The “Star Wars” movies are big, but importantly they are really only big for the western world, especially when they came out. Think about the fact that when the original “Star Wars” came out, China didn’t have much of a middle class, let alone a middle class that could afford to go to a movie several times like fans were doing in the US and UK. Now they can, but “Star Wars” missed its chance to claim a Chinese audience. They just didn’t



Graphic by Will YI

really like it, but they like the “Avengers” movies. “Avengers: Endgame” is as massive in scale and importance as it is because it’s what happens if you take the insanity that revolves around “Star Wars,” multiply it by an order of magnitude, and get the entire world in on it. That’s why it matters.

Comparing “Avengers: Endgame” to “Star Wars” is also a fairly appropriate comparison story-wise because the only thing that looks like the nightmarish cliffhanger

fans were treated to after “Avengers: Infinity War” is the similar one after “Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back.” Marvel fans of my generation should have respect for our parents in this regard, because they were left with their cliffhanger for three agonizing years.

I haven’t actually talked about whether I liked the movie or not so far, and so far that’s because it felt more like an experience than a film. The experience is spectacular, especially in a packed

theater of fans. But as a film, “Avengers: Endgame” will require a lot more analysis when it eventually gets its home release.

Here’s my recommendation: if you are a marvel fan who has been along this eleven-year journey, if you appreciate film history and want to experience this part of it, or a fantastic theater experience: go see this movie. It’s an experience that won’t be matched or exceeded for a while.





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Editor: Hanson Lee

“Endgame:” An epic, ambitious, but flawed finale

Ben Wheeler

Columnist

Let's get this out of the way first: “Avengers: Endgame” is a total blast, with awesome dialogue in both serious and witty situations, mind-blowing action sequences, full of epic moments and lots of heart. All that being said, I think it is a classic case of expectations with regards to the genre and context of the film vs. what generally makes a good film. If you're going in to experience a superhero, action epic that is loose with the rules (both of cinema and the rules of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)), then you are going to have a heck of an experience that you won't soon forget. If you're like me and go into the film with expectations that represent a hybrid of what I previously described along with higher expectations for the raw cinematic elements, don't fret. Your experience will still be a blast, but you may have more to complain about.

“Avengers: Endgame” is a culmination of all the prior MCU films and acts as a pseudo-part two to the story that kicked off in “Avengers: Infinity War” (2018), which of course concluded with our heroes ultimately losing a variety of valiant battles against Thanos (Josh Brolin) and his army. Thanos achieved his goal of acquiring all the infinity stones, snapped his infinity gauntlet-covered fingers and half the universe's population of living creatures was erased out of existence. “Avengers: Endgame” initially picks up only a short while after the “snap,” as our remaining heroes attempt to deal with their tremendous loss. It isn't long before they formulate a plan to not



Graphic by Will YI

only reverse the genocide of Thanos, but to eliminate him as a threat as well. However, they soon learn that to accomplish this goal will require sacrifices they haven't prepared for or even considered. That's all I can say without going into serious spoiler territory.

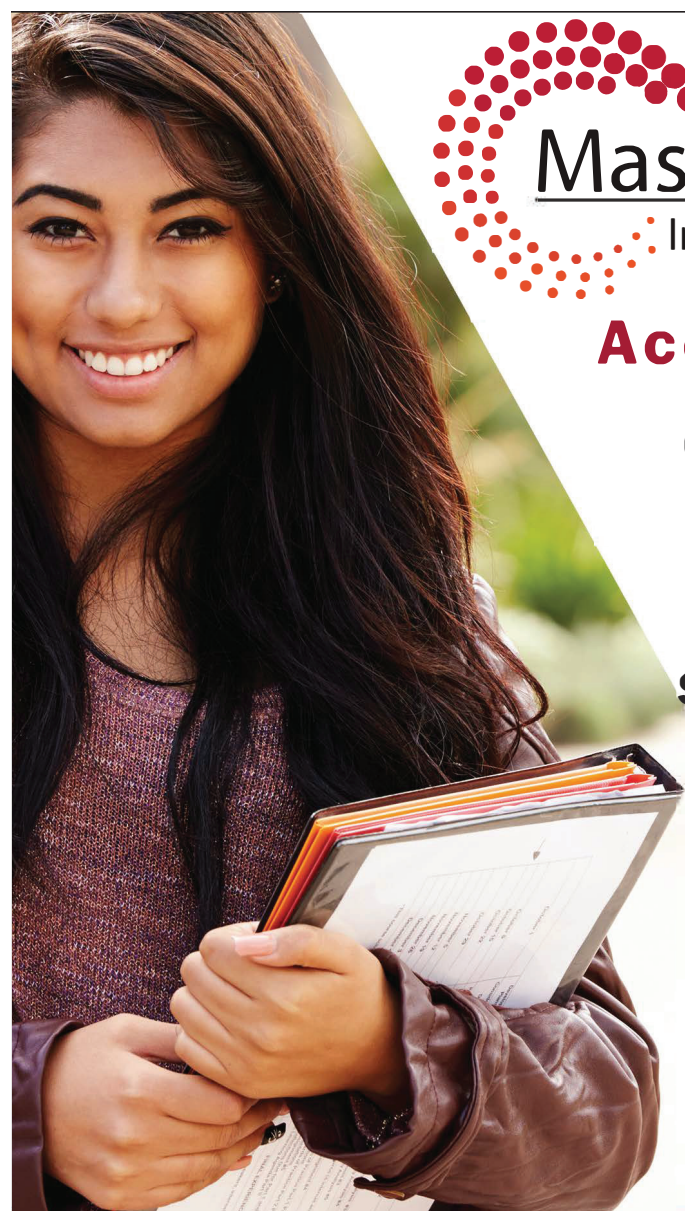
As a superhero film, “Avengers: Endgame” is unmatched in its scale, scope and pace. Where this film takes you and the rate it does so feels like being a passenger in a high-speed vehicle with the pedal floored. We see only what we absolutely have to see for the actions to make sense, then it is on to the next scene or set-piece. We rock our way through these scenes with a mix of classic MCU themes and new tunes, which are synced up perfectly to the explosive, incredibly detailed and amazingly choreographed

action scenes. All of our heroes showcase their classic skill and demeanor, as well as those elements with some new twists. The tone here is also a huge win, though there are low-key moments and a good number of jokes, but the film never fails to remind us what the stakes really are here and how fragile this reality really is. “Avengers: Endgame” rewrites some of the established rule book within its own universe, but does it in such crazy and unexpected ways that it's easy to ignore things that seem to violate previously established impossibilities, as well as prior character prerogatives and motivations.

As a typical film goer and choosing to ignore the pure spectacle, I am bit more conflicted. Yes, the pace is unmatched and overall a lot of fun, but there are stretches where it

is really hard to follow. If you want to use the bathroom or in some cases blink, you can forget it. Too much happens too fast and it is really easy to get lost in what is happening if your attention lapses for a second, which is problematic if you're somebody who isn't as knowledgeable in the realm of the MCU and can't discern the on-screen action as quickly. Also, with this breakneck pace, it is difficult to truly identify the three parts of your typical three act structure within the film. It is hard to tell what has been done and what still needs to be done before the next section of the story can take place or before we arrive at the climax. Also, rewriting the rulebook in a unique way is no doubt creative, however, doing so in such a quick fashion can be interpreted as pointlessly undoing previous films' work to fit your own narrative. In other words, it feels cheap to an extent. Great films are consistent in what the rules are within the world where the film takes place. This film, however, is far from consistent in that regard.

Overall, I recommend watching this film in theaters at least once, so you can get the maximum experience. I plan on forking over the cash so I can see it on the big screen multiple times, because the fun and exhilarating elements are so constant and enthralling. However, I wonder if it holds up as well as it would months from now when the movie gets its Blu-ray/DVD and digital video release and we all have more time to nitpick the content. Rotten Tomatoes' critics score comes in at 96 percent, while the audience score is currently 93 percent, according to the Rotten Tomatoes official website.



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Editor: Nick Jahnke

Montoya declares for NBA draft

Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

CWU Men’s Basketball’s guard Malik Montoya announced in a tweet on April 16 that he will enter his name into the 2019 NBA draft.

“I enjoyed my four years of college basketball and I gave it my all every time I touched the court,” Montoya said in the tweet. “Thank you to all my family and friends and coaches and teammates for everything and I’m going to give it my all because I have nothing to lose.”

Montoya averaged 17.9 points per game at Federal Way High School in Federal Way, Washington. He also helped the Eagles win the 4A State Championship his senior year.

Montoya played basketball his first two years of college at Seattle University. His freshman year, he played in 13 games before a knee injury took him off the court. In his sophomore year at Seattle University he appeared in eight games. Montoya then decided to transfer to CWU to play out the final two years of his college career.

In his junior year at CWU, Montoya was fifth on the team in points scored, third in assists, third in blocks and second in steals. In his senior year, Montoya was fourth on the team in points scored, third in three-point field goals, third in rebounds, third in assists and first in steals with 36.

“I really have nothing to lose,” Montoya said. “I’m just trying to get my name out a little more and hopefully get an opportunity to play overseas or maybe even in the NBA.”

Family has been a big part of Mon-

toya’s career. From a young age his father put a basketball in his hand and his family always knew that whatever he did would come easy to him.

His father watched his games his freshman year at Seattle University before moving to Louisiana. During Montoya’s senior year at CWU, his mother moved closer to watch his games and his father surprised him by moving back to Washington just in time for the last two games of Montoya’s college career, including his senior night.

“

Thank you to all my family and friends and coaches and teammates for everything and I’m going to give it my all because I have nothing to lose.

Malik Montoya, guard

”

“My family has played a tremendous, big role in my life. They’ve always been there for me,” Montoya said. “I had a couple tough times growing up with living situations and transferring... trying to find a way to [Amateur Athletic Union] practice and coming up with money to pay for these things. My parents did the best they could and if they could figure it out, they did their best to figure it out.”

Montoya’s grandmother Kris Hudson also watched Montoya at CWU. Hudson enjoyed the way her grandson brought life to the court.

“He mesmerized the crowd. I loved that. He’s good at what he

does,” Hudson said.

When asked how high of a ceiling she thinks her grandson has in basketball, Hudson said “he can reach as far as he wants to.”

Montoya’s teammate Jackson Price enjoyed playing with Montoya on the court. Price saw the fun side of Montoya and the passion Montoya had for winning.

“He’s a character, he likes to have fun. But when it came to basketball he was a very competitive guy,” Price said. “I don’t think he liked to lose... he worked hard in practice and people looked up to him as a leader.”

In the 2018 NBA Draft, 52 out of the 4,181 draft eligible athletes were drafted out of the NCAA. According to Jim Sukup, writer for rpiratings.com, out of all 2018-19 NBA opening day rosters, two players attended non-Division I colleges.

Outside of his time playing basketball, Montoya is on track to earn his bachelor’s degree in public relations. If basketball doesn’t work out, Montoya still wants to be around athletics.

“I really want to be a P.E. teacher. I want to help kids with anything... with life and just help them out,” Montoya said.

Montoya’s main goal after college is to put himself in a good situation financially to be able to give back to his family for the support they have shown him.

“I got a lot of little cousins and family looking up to me,” Montoya said. “I know I’m trying to put myself into position so I can bring that to my family so they can be rich and well-off in my future.”



Photo courtesy of Richard Oganga
Photo adapted by Nick Jahnke/The Observer



Photos by Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Montoya played at Seattle University until his sophomore year. He came to Ellensburg to spend the last two years of his career as a college athlete with the Wildcats. He has declared that he will be entering into the 2019 NBA draft.

Editor: Nick Jahnke

Football looking for next quarterback



Christian Moore



Canon Racanelli

Bryce Weedman

Senior Sports Reporter

Three Wildcat quarterbacks are currently competing for the chance to be the starter come next season. The Wildcats will start their season against the Idaho Vandals on Sept. 7.

Previously the Wildcats had starter Reilly Hennessey on their roster until his time ran out in college football. He graduated and is now on his way to playing overseas for the Italian Football League's Parma Panthers, according to Ifiberone. Hennessey left CWU with a 19-4 overall record. Hennessey's senior year was followed by nominations for GNAC Player of the Year award and the Harlon Hill Trophy.

"It's going to be real tough. Reilly's a great guy, great mentor for us," said red-shirt freshman Tai-John Mizutani. "But I think the three of us as individuals, we don't want to be known as Reilly's replacement. We want to make our own name for ourselves."

The three quarterbacks fighting for the starting job are sophomore Canon Racanelli, redshirt-freshman Tai-John Mizutani and sophomore Christian Moore. All three quarterbacks have their own style, according to Racanelli, and it shows during practice. According to CWU Athletics, Mizutani accumulated the fourth most passing yards in Hawaii history during his high school career. During this time period, Mizutani was also named KHON2 rising star, was a three-time first team Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH) quarterback, was a two-time scoring live athlete of the week and was a three-time Star Advertiser player of the week. Mizutani also holds the Lolani high school single game passing record of 506 yards, and threw for a total of 7,702 yards and 55 touchdowns. Mizutani has not yet played for CWU, but was able to at least suit up for the game against

West Texas A&M University last year.

"The atmosphere was crazy, it was unlike any other and I'm from Hawaii, so watching the [Hawaii University] games they're alright, but the atmosphere is not even close to what it's like in [Tomlinson Stadium]," Mizutani said.

In high school Racanelli set the all time single season record in Washington state for touchdowns with 74, which led Hockinson High School to a state championship in 2017. They had a 14-0 record that season and Racanelli was named the 2A All-State most valuable player in 2017.

Racanelli is the shortest of all three of the quarterbacks, standing at 6 feet. According to Bleacher Report, quarterbacks 6 foot 1 and under are more likely to get sacked than taller quarterbacks.

"Just being able to take hits, and I just have to keep bulking up, and gettin ready for fall," Racanelli said. "But so far taking hits hasn't been a super difficult thing for me since I'm a pretty flexible guy."

Moore, standing at 6 feet 5 inches, is the only quarterback who has experience at the college level, backing up Hennessey, according to CWU athletics. Moore played in 10 games, and although he only threw 33 times in 2018, he had a 149.03 QB rating. A quarterback rating is a statistical analyses based on four categories: percentage of completions per attempt, average yards gained per attempt, percentage of touchdown passes per attempt and percentage of interceptions per attempt, according to NFL.com. The highest quarterback rating is 158.3, so Moore's rating of 149.03 is very high for the short amount of throws last year.

In high school Moore threw for 3,500 yards and 30 touchdowns at Bellarmine Preparatory School. He was named captain his senior year and was invited to the East-West All-Star Game. Moore was also a two sport athlete, holding the single season rebounding record at Bellarmine.

According to Kelly Bills, offensive



Photos by Bryce Weedman/The Observer

Canon Racanelli, Tai-John Mizutani and Christian Moore are competing for the starting quarterback position for next fall.

coordinator and quarterback coach, no one has the edge as of now. Inner-squad competition aside, Moore said that battling for the top spot this off-season has been all about love and respect for his fellow Wildcat quarterbacks, both on and off the field.

"First off I'll say that those two guys Tai-John and Canon are both great dudes. With us, it's friendship and love before the quarterback battle," Moore said. "We want to see each other succeed. It's not like one guy wants to see the other guy not succeed."

Editor: Nick Jahnke

ROTC defines ideal soldier

Bryce Weedman
Senior Sports Reporter

It's still dark, but the sun has just begun to rise over the hills of Kittitas county. It's 5:45 a.m. and Army ROTC cadets arrive at the John Wayne Trail next to the Ellensburg fairgrounds. Cadet soldiers line up with their 30 to 40 pound packs on their backs and in full gear ready to take on the six mile hike.

This is something that ROTC is familiar with, as they do these physical activities on the regular to stay ready as a soldier at all times, according to Cadet Joshua Chincó. Chincó is certified as a Master of Fitness, or in other words an expert in fitness, according to the Army's website. Chincó, Cadet Madison Woodworth and Cadet Emanuel Sanchez tell their idea of what they believe is a perfect soldier, and give insight into how they stay in combat ready shape.

Being combat ready is something that every soldier has to do because it is their job and duty, according to Army's website. Since 1980, the U.S. Army has used the Army physical fitness test (APFT). The Army is now changing how they measure soldiers ability to perform physically to the Army combat fitness test (ACFT), which aims to cut down

injuries. The ACFT will also measure all soldiers, female and male, with one even score across the board. The ACFT will measure soldiers on five components: muscular and aerobic endurance, muscular strength, speed, agility and explo-

sive power. The APFT has only measured the first two components, according to Army's website.

"If you want to talk about what the army can improve upon now, I think that they are accomplishing that by bringing

in the new ACFT," Chincó said.

Sanchez said the ideal soldier has great leadership skills, leads by example and they are there with you along your side always trying to help make you better. They aren't just trying to tell you what to do, but how to do it better. Chincó believes that the ideal soldier has the mentality of a scholar, leader and athlete. Chincó said the ideal soldier is physically well rounded.

"If you take our run times and compare them to track athletes run times they won't be that impressive, and if you take our weight lifting statistics and compare that to football players they won't be that impressive," Chincó said. "But if you cross that and compare our run time to football and our lifting to track we look well rounded."

Chincó said the Army doesn't expect its soldiers to be amazing at one thing, but they need to be good at everything.

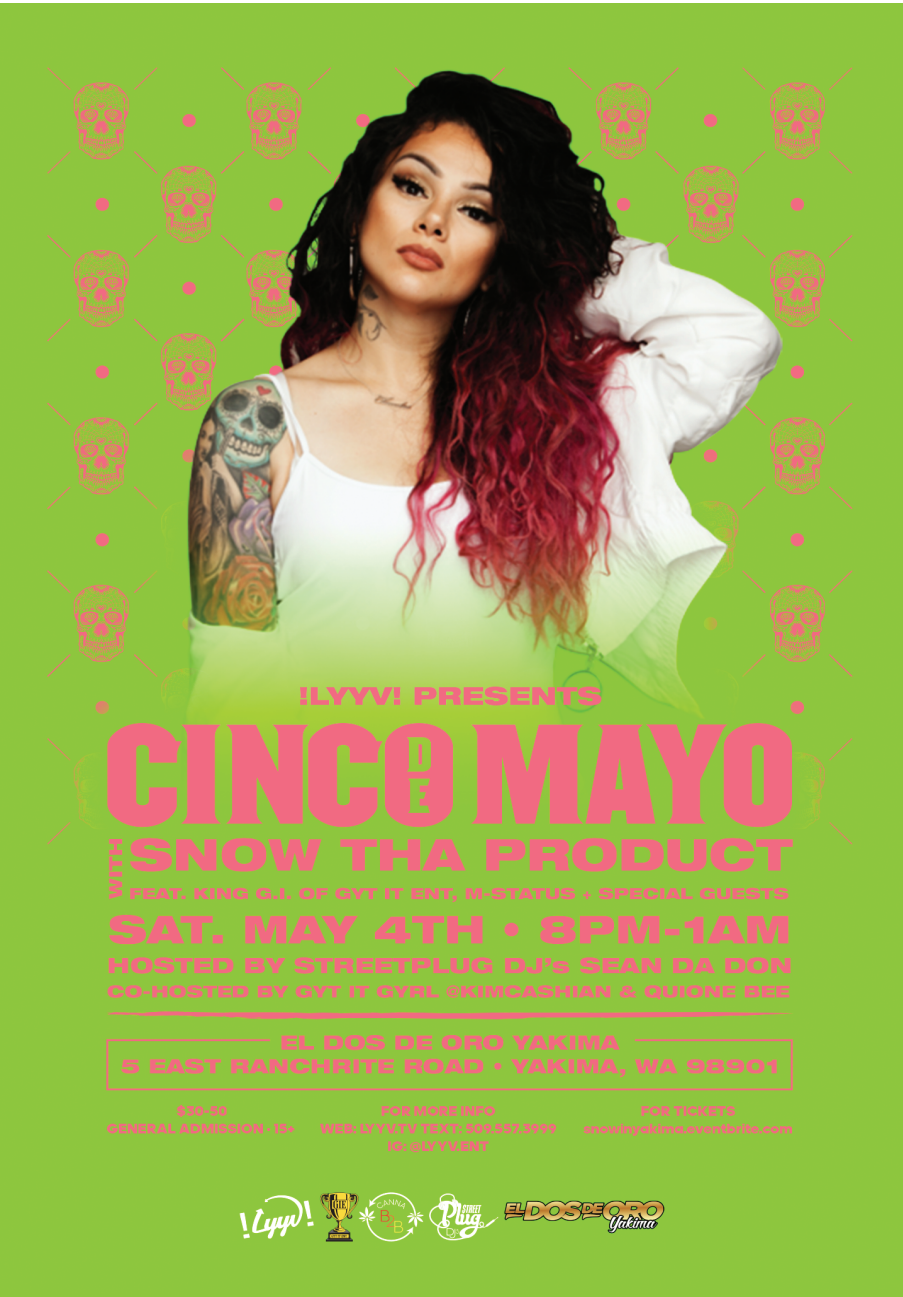
Woodworth expressed her feeling on the difference between a male soldier and a female soldier. According to the Army's website, in 2017 the Army started integrating female soldiers into infantry roles.

"The ideal female soldier is not any different than the ideal male soldier," Woodworth said. "I think that the perfect soldier is someone who is never satisfied and is always willing to change."



Photo by Bryce Weedman/The Observer

The John Wayne Trail hike is one of the methods ROTC uses to help cadets stay in combat-ready shape. Cadets must trek six miles with 30-40 pound backpacks.



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Editor: Nick Jahnke

Baseball closes out season on the road

Hanson Lee
Managing Editor

Ellensburg’s wind is picking up, but baseball season is winding down for the 2019 season as the Wildcats prepare to hit the road and take care of the Northwest Nazarene University Nighthawks (21-21) in their final four games of the season.

The Wildcats (14-28-1) are having a down season in comparison to last year where they finished the season with an overall record of 27-26. With that being said, there’s a lot more to acknowledge about the growth and potential of this team as it looks to rebound in the coming years. Assistant coach Kellen Camus expressed that with new players on this year’s squad, the team has taken on a younger identity, but looks to have a brighter future to show for it down the road.

“We had to bring a lot of new faces in and to bring a lot of new faces in, it’s taken us longer to get together as a team,” Camus said. “There’s a lot of learning curve. I don’t think we’ve quite learned each other’s game and that’s a big key.”

Infielder Mitch Lesmeister has been an impact player for the Wildcats this season. The sophomore has started 43 games of the 44 games that he’s played in and has been hitting a quality batting average of .351 at the plate.

“I think that the important thing is that we’re trying to play for each other and move forward,” Lesmeister said.

Junior outfielder Justin Hampson has also served an integral role on the team this season, batting a solid .298 to go along with



a .444 slugging percentage. As an upper-classman having seen the team change over the years, Hampson acknowledged that in past seasons, the Wildcats have been defined as more of a “big powerhouse team.” With new faces on the team though and a different lineup to show for it, Hampson said that the ball club is trying to transition into becoming more of a quicker, athletic, defensive-centered threat.

“The team is molding into a new

type of team,” Hampson said. “I think we’re on the right track.

We’re still young and we’ve got lots of really good players.”

Recently, the Wildcats wrapped up a four-game home series where they were swept by GNAC opponent Montana State University Billings. Despite what may have seemed like a rocky series being outscored 19-60, Camus stated that there’s always going to be opportunities to improve and get better as a ball club, even in the final games of a season.

“We showed signs of improvement, but overall we didn’t play a full nine innings, a full seven, a full nine, a full seven,” Camus said. “We gotta look at ourselves and say how can we improve just for the rest of the year. How can we win those tight games, how can we improve from an offensive side, from the defensive side, from the pitching side. How can we put it all together as one whole.”



Photos by Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Baseball is gearing up and hitting the road to take on the Northwest Nazarene University Nighthawks in a four game series.



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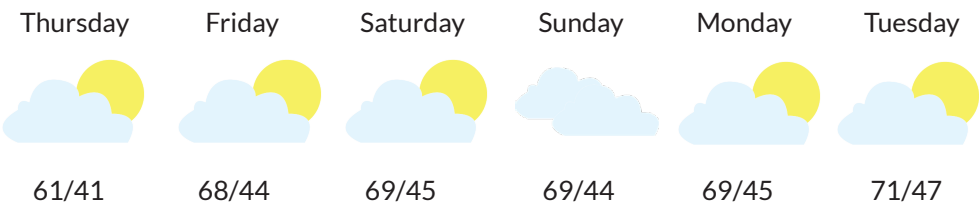
For more information, contact:
Dr. Sathy Rajendran, PhD, CSP, ARM, SHM Program Director at rajendrands@cwu.edu or 509-963-1152



Sponsored by the Safety and Health Management Program.

Editor: Hanson Lee

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast



Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 18 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 14 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 14 mph.

Monday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 15 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 16 mph.

Data sourced from weather.com. Information current as of publication date. Weather subject to change.

Ask Rune

The “Ask” column is written by one of our staff members. Opinions in this column are meant to be lighthearted and entertaining.

Dear Rune,
Ellensburg wind has not been my friend as of late. What are some crazy fun ideas that I could pursue in this windy city as a means of rekindling my relationship with this sort of weather?

Sincerely, Weary and Wind-swept

Dear Windswept,
It sounds like you and the wind used to have something really special going. Obviously I’m no couples’ counselor, but if I had to take a stab at it, I’d say you need to find what made your relationship special in the first place. Maybe it was long evenings spent flying a kite over the cornfields, maybe it was waking up to the melody of the wind-chimes on your front porch. Either way, the magic is still there, and if the two of you are serious about getting back together, you’ll be able to find it soon enough. The really tough part of the process comes from reflecting on and remedying whatever ended up driving the two of you apart. Maybe the wind got too chilly, or maybe you got tired of having to wear windbreakers all the time. Maybe the wind got jealous of all the attention you were giving your studies, so it blew away your homework in a bid for your affections. Accepting whatever fault you may have had in these events is imperative to the continued success of your relationship. Finally, come up with a solution to the problem. The wind in Ellensburg is quite strong, and it wouldn’t be fair to ask it to change that fundamental fact. Instead, consider finding ways to harness it. My recommendation would be purchasing a longboard and a kite, and go paraskating your way to your classes. Or just suck it up and learn to bundle up.

Hope this helps!

-Rune

Submit a question

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

Call for reader work

Do you have a letter to the editor or a burning opinion you want published?

We would love your work!

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M - Tu 5-6 p.m. for inquiries.

This week in Observer history



On May 5, 2005, it was reported that a contractor, by the name Gary Fife, had recently found bones, while on the job, indicating what could be the remains of a prehistoric mammoth. An archeological dig consisting of students and faculty was set to follow this discovery.



By Teagan Kimbro

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

THURSDAY, MAY 2
Polyfest
Barbecue 4:30 p.m. • Wellington Event Center • Ticket required (free for CWU students, \$9 GA) • www.cwu.edu/tickets
Performances 7 p.m. • McIntyre Concert Hall • Free, first come/first seated
Experience music, performances and dances of the Polynesian Islands at this annual event. Enjoy surprise guests and never-before-seen performances!

Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit
5 - 7 p.m. • Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, Randall Hall • Free
Showcase of outstanding undergraduate student artwork created during the past academic year. Show runs through May 16. Gallery hours: M - F 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., weekends 1 - 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 3
Wildcat Success Day: Congrats to First and Second Year Wildcats!
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • SURC E Patio • Free
Celebrate your accomplishments, access CWU resources, and enjoy snacks.

Unheard Voices: Benefit Concert
5-7 p.m. • Rotary Pavilion, 4th & Pearl St
Help raise funds and awareness for the Spirit Therapeutic Riding Center! Enjoy performances by Wild Like Flowers, and get to know the CWU Rodeo Club.

SATURDAY, MAY 4
Campus Activities Presents: May the 4th Be With You
6:30-11 p.m. • SURC Pit & Theatre • Free
Is the force strong within? Test your lightsaber skills, join the cosplay contest, and watch the movie “Fanboys!”

CWU Intramural Tennis Tournament
12-5 p.m. (check in 11:45 a.m.) • CWU Tennis Courts • Free
Come show off your tennis skills in this one day tournament brought to you by CWU Recreation. Singles and doubles sign-ups are live on imleagues.com/cwu

MONDAY, MAY 6
ASCWU Public Meeting
1 p.m. • SURC Pit • Open to all!

Heels Workshop
2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
Learn how to move, walk and do simple choreography, all while wearing heels! Taught by three-time director and choreographer of Rocky Horror at CWU, Nic Howe and Libby Akin.

Monday Movie Madness: The Upside
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3
A heartfelt comedy shows the relationship between a paroled ex-convict and a paralyzed billionaire.

TUESDAY, MAY 7
Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series: Erika Sanchez, writer and poet
12 p.m. craft talk, 6 p.m. talk
Brooks Library 2nd floor • Open to all!

Fresh Check Day
4-7 p.m. • SURC E Patio, Chestnut Mall, Barto Lawn • Free • freshcheckday.com
Check up on your mental health: food, music, giveaways, grand prize drawing

CWU.EDU/TICKETS
Central Theatre Ensemble: The Hunchback of Notre Dame and many more!

#CWUHYPE